



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shouji YAJIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731 ✓

Application No.: 09/806,236 ✓

Examiner: C. Lopez

Filed: March 28, 2001

Docket No.: 109067

For: PRODUCTION METHOD OF SYNTHETIC SILICA GLASS AND THERMAL
TREATMENT APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

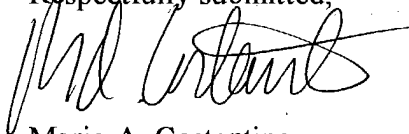
In reply to the June 16, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group 1, claims 1-4. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed with this application on March 28, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/jam

Date: July 10, 2003

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